

Montana and the Sky

MDT - Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

Vol. 57 No. 2

February 2006

Conference Fun Drawing Near!

The dates for the 2006 aviation conference are growing near and with the list of outstanding speakers featured this year you won't want to miss out on the excitement. Conference goers can listen to aviation professionals who will share their expertise and experience on a wide variety of topics. Aviation related vendors from across the country will be in attendance to share with you important information on their vital services and products. There will also be an exciting spouse/guest tour, an aircraft display at the Helena Regional Airport, as well as a tour of the Airport facilities including Summit Aeronautics that specializes in manufacturing of F-22 and other aircraft parts and tools.

Thursday's kickoff luncheon will feature Lieutenant Colonel Scott R. Smith. LTC Smith entered military service in 1975 enlisting as a UH-1 helicopter mechanic and crew chief stationed in Badingen, Germany. Upon his discharge he attended the Helena College of Technology obtaining a FAA Airframe and Power Plant mechanic's certification. LTC Smith was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Armor from the ROTC program at the University of Montana in 1981. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Business and holds a Masters Degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. He is a graduate from the Armor Officer Basic Course, Aviation Officer Advance Course, Aviation Maintenance Officer Course, and Command and General Staff College. LTC Smith began service with the Montana National Guard in the Air Troop (-) 163rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) in 1983 as a UH-1M pilot. He held positions as the Section Leader in maintenance and in the Aero Weapons Section. From 1988 until 1995 he was assigned to the 1-189th Attack Helicopter Battalion serving as S4, Headquarters Service Company Commander, and S1. Assigned to the 1-189th Combat Support Aviation Battalion in 1995 until 2001, LTC Smith held positions as S3 and Executive Officer. Currently, he is the Commander, Army Aviation Support Facility, Montana Army National Guard, Helena, Montana and the Battalion Commander of the 1-189th Assault. With the battalion recently returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom, LTC Smith will share his amazing stories from that mission.

Friday's awards luncheon will feature Carroll College Football Coach Mike Van Diest. The Saints won their fourth straight NAIA National Championship a historic victory marking the first NAIA team to win four-straight national titles. Who better to offer words of encouragement and inspiration than Coach Van Diest, Helena is proud of their Fighting Saints!

Saturday's luncheon will be held in the exhibit area with thousands of dollars in door prizes to be given away thanks to the continued support of our generous vendors. And of course we are all looking forward to Erik Lindbergh at the Saturday evening banquet. For those of you who haven't registered there is still time just complete the registration form on page 6 of the newsletter. Remember those of you that pre-register are eligible for a special drawing – you need not be present to win!

Rooms have been blocked at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel for reservations phone (406) 443-2100 or 1-800-RED-LION. Rooms have also been blocked at the following hotels within walking distance; Mountain Valley Inn (406) 443-2300; Super 8 (406) 443-2450; Fairfield Inn (800) 228-2800 or (406) 449-9944. And at the following hotels not within walking distance; Days Inn (406) 442-3280; Holiday Inn Express (800) 465-4329 or (406) 449-4000; Wingate Inn (866) 300-7100 or (406) 449-3000.

Please reference MT Aviation Conference when making reservations. Also for those of you flying in Hertz Rent-A-Car will be offering a preferred rate to conference participants, just mention the conference when calling for reservations.

Hope to see you there!!

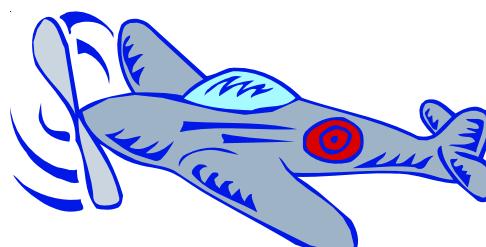


Lieutenant Colonel Scott R. Smith is a featured speaker at Thursday's kickoff luncheon.

Administrator's Column

Secretary Mineta Announces Budget: U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta recently unveiled the President's fiscal year 2007 budget plans for the Department of Transportation that include a \$65.6 billion request that provides record investments for new programs and explores new ways to fund transportation projects over the long term. "Our transportation network is the backbone of the strongest and most dynamic economy in the world," said Secretary Mineta. "So this budget looks to the future, setting the stage for modernizing our financing as well as our infrastructure." The budget requests \$13.7 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), including \$8.4 billion to address operational needs, hire 194 inspectors and other safety personnel and 1,136 new air traffic controllers to offset retirements expected in 2007. It also provides \$2.8 billion for the Airport Improvement Program to construct new runways and to meet the Department's goal for improving runway safety, capacity and efficiency. The Secretary noted that the Administration would propose a reauthorization plan for the FAA that would include new financing proposals for the Aviation Trust Fund. Current revenue coming into the fund, which provides resources for maintaining and expanding airport capacity nationwide, is tied to the price of a ticket. The Secretary said the proposal would include forward-looking ideas. "There is general agreement that our growing aviation system needs a more stable and predictable revenue stream that creates a more direct relationship between revenues collected and services provided," Mineta said. The Department's budget request includes \$122 million for the Next Generation Air Transportation System initiative. Of that, \$80 million will go to the FAA for the Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) technology, and another \$24 million would fund System Wide Information Management (SWIM). Together, these two systems will improve safety, efficiency and security throughout the aviation system, the Secretary said. Does this mean user fees, less money for airports, increase in FAA staff...stay tuned as we all learn more?

Airport Research Funded: Aviation associations, including the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAQ) began promoting a federally funded research program for airports in the late 1990s. The group convinced Congress to study the need for the program under AIR-21. Under an agreement the FAA contracted with the Transportation Research Board (TRB) in 2002 to study the need for an Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP). NASAQ participated in the study that ended with the production of Special Report 272 from TRB that recommended the establishment of such a program (ACRP). VISION-100 authorized the ACRP program, in late 2003. Last year, DOT Secretary Mineta appointed a 20-person, non-partisan, independent Airports Oversight Committee (AOC) as the governing board of the research program. This committee includes Henry Ogorzinski, president and CEO of NASAQ. Last October FAA funding was received. The AOC met recently to review 115 requests for airport research projects. The group approved 24 projects with funding totaling \$7 million. The authorized projects reflect a wide range of topics that may help improve safety, efficiency, management and infrastructure on the air-side and land-side of large and small airports. The AOC will meet again this summer. If you are interested in proposing research to be considered by the committee please contact Debbie Alke for further information and/or check out the following website: <http://www4.trb.org/trb/crp.nsf/reference/appendices/ACRP+Overview>



Montana and the Sky

Department of Transportation

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Calendar

March 2-4 - Montana Aviation Conference, Red Lion Colonial Inn, Helena. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

March 10-11 - 2006 Idaho Aviation Festival. Contact (208) 334-8775 or (208) 288-0290 or inquire@meetingsystems.com for further information. Conference website: <http://www.itd.idaho.gov/aero/AviationFestival>.

March 19 - Rocky Mountain College Open House. 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. includes free lunch. Please call Dan Hargrove, director of aviation if interested (406) 657-1060.

March 23-25 - 17th Annual International Women in Aviation Conference. Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee. For further information phone (937) 839-4647.

April 28-30 - Civil Air Patrol State Conference, Billings. For further information contact Paul Tweden at (406) 252-2578.

Aeronautics Mechanics Seminar & IA Renewal

The Montana Aeronautics Division is pleased to announce the 2006 Mechanics Seminar & IA renewal, which will be held in conjunction with this year's Montana Aviation conference in Helena. The dates for the conference are March 2-4. The Mechanics Seminar will be held on Friday March 3 and continue through Saturday March 4.

We will be offering six hours of training on Friday and a full eight hours of training on Saturday. This has worked out well in the past for those mechanics only wanting to attend on Saturday but still needing the training to update their IA for renewal.

Mechanics attending this year's seminar will be required to register for the Aviation Conference. The registration fee will be \$55.00. This allows you to attend all concurrent sessions, morning and afternoon coffee breaks with snacks, Friday night dinner dance and the Saturday luncheon. If you plan to attend the 8-hour Saturday session, a \$15.00 day pass may be obtained.

TENTATIVE SPEAKERS: Teledyne Continental Motors – Loren Lemen; Colorado Classic Aircraft-Carol Leyner; Engine Components Inc.-Tim Morland; American Bonanza Society-Bob Olson; Precision Airmotive-Alan Jesmer; Aerotronics Inc.-Steve Vold; Bell Helicopters-Jim Szymanski; Northwest Propeller-Dick Jacob; Honeywell Chadwick – Jim Ramsey; ATP – Bob Jones; David Shayne – FAA Legal; Helena FSDO. Make plans now to attend, discuss, and learn the latest in aircraft maintenance.



In Memory of Danielle "Dani" Snider



Danielle "Dani" Snider, 37, died as a result of a single-vehicle rollover on January 14, 2006. Danielle was born on August 2, 1968, in Seattle to Jim and Sandy (Doyle) Stevenson. She attended schools in Snoqualmie and graduated from Liberty High School in 1986. In high school she was involved in the drill team, weight lifting and baseball.

After graduating from high school she attended Alaska Airlines flight attendant school and worked for the airline until 1996. Dani married Scott Snider on November 12, 2005, in the Hogeland American Lutheran Church.

Dani was raised in the city but loved being with her grandparents in Turner. She loved flying and was proud of her grandfather and uncle's involvement with Doyle Aerial Spraying.

She had a great love for Montana, family and friends. Dani enjoyed reading, traveling, snow skiing, boating, swimming, camping and shooting handguns. She was an excellent mother and loved spending time with her children and family.

She is survived by her husband, Scott Snider of Turner; daughter, Alexander "Alex" Pederson of Turner; father, Jim Stevenson of Seattle; mother, Sandy, and stepfather, Ron Thompson of Seattle; stepdaughter, Jordan Pederson of Seattle; stepson, Parker Pederson of Seattle; sisters Shannon Stevenson of Tobyhanna, PA, Jennifer McAllister of Friendswood, TX; grandmother, Ethel Doyle of Turner; nieces, nephews and cousins.

Our thoughts & prayers are with Scott and the entire family.

Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic Offers Valuable Training

Snow on Stemple Pass helped to insure the success of this year's Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic. Many of the participants were returning winter survivalist that wanted to add to their book of survival knowledge.

Skip Stoffel and Ralph Wilfong of Emergency Response International are professional in their expert leadership to the participants in both the 16-hour ground training and the overnight field session. We would like to thank the Army National Guard for the use of the facilities and to Ponder' Roses in Lincoln for a great Sunday morning breakfast. Big kudos to Cathy Murphy of Wolf Creek, it is becoming an annual event that Cathy makes awesome survival cookies for the evening training. Thank you to Debbie (Surratt) Myers and her children Phil & Laura for their continued support of this important program. They help fund the program each year in memory of Terry Surratt who survived an airplane crash in 1991, who later died of hypothermia as a result of the crash. Thank you.

Emergency Response International put together a minimum survival kit containing six essential categories, shelter, fire, signaling and lighting, medical and tools. We, at Montana Aeronautics Division hope there is a survival kit in each of your airplanes with quick access to you and your passengers.



Dick Hatfield (l) of Laurel once taught survival training for Aeronautics. Also pictured is Matt Lindberg of Fort Shaw who just soloed!



Dianne Carlson, (l) a flight nurse from Missoula, and Sarah Pederson, a flight student from Helena, slept comfortably in their snow shelter.



Survival ground school was held in the Helena National Guard classroom.



Cathy Murphy, of Wolf Creek, waits for her winter gear to be checked by instructors before venturing out into the field session.



Surratt Memorial continued...

Minimum Survival Kit



Wyatt Lytton of Polson, flies with his dad and wants to be prepared; Wyatt built and spent the night in his own snow shelter.



Skip Stoffel of Emergency Response International (center) offers expert advice to participants.

This list contains the six essential categories that should make up the basis for a survival kit that can be useful anywhere in the world. Items should be added to each category to address environments, personal needs and personal preferences.

Shelter

Heavy-duty orange plastic bag
30' minimum 550 line

Fire

Metal match
Waterproof matches
Cotton balls with Vaseline in waterproof container

Signaling and Lighting

Signal mirror, glass
Whistle, plastic
Small LED light
Extra batteries

Medical

Duct tape
Pain reliever
Safety pins
Antihistamine
Tweezers
Anti-bacterial ointment
Small bar soap
Anti-diarrhea tablets
Band-Aids
Personal medications

Water

Purification tablets
Small folding water bag

Tools and Miscellaneous

Sturdy knife

Head net
Multi-tool

Snare wire
Compass
Fishhooks
Sewing needle

Laurel Airport Unicom/ CTAF Frequency Change

Anyone planning a flight to the Laurel airport should be aware that the local CTAF frequency and Unicom frequency has been changed. The frequency is now 123.05 MHZ. This change affects the remote runway lighting controller that operates the runway lights and the newly installed Super AWOS weather station located on the airport. You are strongly encouraged to check local NOTAM's for this change.

Montana Aviation Conference

Red Lion Colonial Hotel - Helena

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TEAR OFF AND MAIL REGISTRATION TODAY!



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HELENA - MARCH 2-4, 2006

MONTANA AVIATION CONFERENCE – March 2-4, 2006

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MPA MATA MFF
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PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING RESERVATIONS
NOTE: Meal tickets must be purchased 48 hours in advance.

**TAKEOFF TO LANDING PACKAGE
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_____	@ \$105/PERSON	\$ _____
_____	@ \$200/PERSON/SPOUSE	\$ _____
-OR-	REG. FEE _____	@ \$55/PERSON \$ _____
		@ \$100/FAMILY \$ _____
	Thursday Luncheon	@\$15 \$ _____
	Friday Luncheon	@\$15 \$ _____
	**Friday Dinner/Dance	@ FREE \$ FREE
	**Saturday Luncheon	@ FREE \$ FREE
	Saturday Banquet	@ \$25 \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

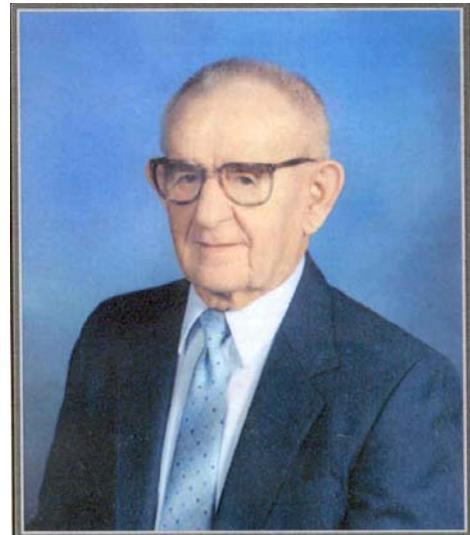
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****PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WILL ATTEND THE FREE FRIDAY DINNER/DANCE AND FREE SATURDAY LUNCHEON WITH NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED- PERSON/SPOUSE AND FAMILY RATE INCLUDES 2 DINNER/DANCE & 2 SATURDAY LUNCH TICKETS - ADDITIONAL TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED - \$25.00 DINNER/DANCE AND \$15.00 SATURDAY LUNCHEON. TO ASSURE ADEQUATE MEAL COUNT IF NO INDICATION IS MADE AS TO NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED NO TICKETS WILL BE RESERVED.**

Victor G. Wokal

Victor (Vic) Wokal, age 92, of Glasgow passed away on January 15, 2006, at Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital, of natural causes.

Vic was born on October 3, 1913 at the family homestead twelve miles north of Dickinson, North Dakota to Joseph and Theresa Fisher Wokal. In 1926, the family moved to south of Bowman, North Dakota. In 1941, Vic began his flying career. On October 3, 1944, he bought land west of Bowman and, along with his brother Joe, established Wokal Flying Service. While in Bowman, he was an active member of St. Charles Church, Knights of Columbus, and the Squadron Commander of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). In 1962, he and his brother seized the opportunity to purchase a Fixed Base Operation (FBO) in Glasgow, Montana. He became a Cessna Dealer in 1947. Vic and his family moved to Glasgow in 1963. Later, Vic became sole owner of the FBO. In addition to the FBO, Vic served as Airport Manager in Glasgow. As an active member in the Glasgow community, he was on the Board of Directors for the Glasgow Area Chamber of Commerce, a finance committee member of St. Raphael's Catholic Church, the treasurer of Valley Hangar Association, and after retirement, was appointed to the Valley County Airport Commission. He also served as the Station Manager for Frontier Airlines and as a United States Customs Officer. In 1987, Vic retired and sold his business.



Vic's love for aviation led him to a career of instructing hundreds of students; crop dusting; providing air ambulance services; and assisting people in need during cold, hard winters by delivering mail and food and providing emergency transportation. He also provided instruction to hundreds of GI students through the GI program. One of his proudest accomplishments was the establishment of STAT Air Ambulance Service through a partnership with Kyle Hopstad and the Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital. Glasgow is the smallest community in the United States with a twin-engine, pressurized air ambulance service.

Vic loved music. For a number of years, the Wokal Family Orchestra played for dances and proms throughout the area.

Most of all, Vic loved his wife and family. In 1941, he was married to Eva Sletto at St. Charles Church in Bowman, North Dakota. Vic and Eva had three daughters: Anita, Donna, and Kris.

Vic received many awards, for which he felt very honored. These awards ranged from the Glasgow Area Chamber of Commerce's "Boss of the Year," to the Montana Pilot's Association's Senior Pilot Award in 1990, a Special Citation from the National Aircraft Owner's & Pilot's Association (AOPA). Two of the most significant honors during his life included the naming of Glasgow airport "Wokal Field," and the designation of the "Wokal Fix."

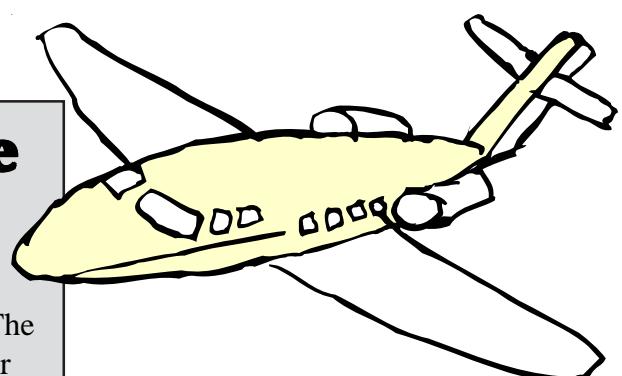
Vic was a man of spirit. It wasn't unusual to see him plowing snow or fueling an airplane in a suit and tie. One of his biggest thrills was on his 90th birthday, when he flew in an open cockpit airplane, piloted by Joe Etchart of Glasgow, and performed nine loops – one for every decade of his life. He is now an aviator in God's heavenly squadron.

Vic will be sincerely missed by his wife of 64 years, Eva; his daughters Anita (Lawren) Frost, of Glasgow; Donna (Gary) Farnsworth of Poplar; and Kris (Kevin) Magstadt of Bismarck; his five grandchildren and four great grandchildren; his brothers Vic (Barbara) Mihulka of Grafton, North Dakota; Joe (Amy) Mihulka of Bowman, North Dakota and Pete Mihulka of Glendive; sisters-in-law Olga Wokal of Watford City, North Dakota and Alice Wokal of Bowman, North Dakota; and his many wonderful friends and fellow aviators.

Our sympathy to the entire Wokal family.

Rocky to Host Open House

The Aviation Program at Rocky Mountain College in Billings is hosting an Open House on Sunday March 19th. The event starts at 8:30 AM, and will conclude at 2:00 PM and includes free lunch. The purpose is to introduce prospective students to the program, answer questions about cost, curriculum, careers and Rocky's new glass cockpit aircraft and simulator. Prospective students will be given a free orientation flight as well. Please call Dan Hargrove, Director of Aviation, if you are interested, at (406) 657-1060.



Eureka Airport Offers Fuel



A 12,000-gallon fuel tank has been installed at Eureka Airport. The tank, with pump dispenser and credit card control is the first step in a long-term plan for the airport. The next step already in progress is the installation of a weather station to provide pilots with local weather information via the Internet. We congratulate Lincoln County and the community of Eureka for their awesome support of the airport. Pictured is Pilot Bob Jacobs one of the first to use the new permanent fuel tanks at Eureka Airport.

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information call (406) 444-6331 or TTY (406) 444-7696.

MDT produces 2,900 copies of this public document at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,131. This includes \$200 for production, \$750 for postage and \$181 for printing.

**Happy
Valentines
DAY!**

February 2006



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